COMMUNICATIONS SERIES · COM-11

COM-11 Message Formats

Getting a report onto the net — correctly, every time.

BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT

The ARRL Radiogram is the format that lets any trained NTS operator, anywhere, handle your traffic correctly without asking a follow-up question. COM-11 teaches you to build one from scratch, convert an ICS-213 or a field report into one, and recognize the MARS and AmRRON formats you'll meet when traffic crosses systems.

WHY THIS MATTERS

A message with the wrong preamble, the wrong precedence, or a garbled ARL number either stalls in the traffic system or gets mishandled by the next station.

SALUTE, ACE/LACE, MEDEVAC, CASREP, and Community SITREP each answer a specific question — but none of them, on its own, is a radio message. COM-11 is the format layer underneath all of them, front-loaded so you aren't learning Radiogram fields by trial and error on the air when it counts.

- **A report that never gets onto the net correctly is no better than a report that was never filed.**

PRECEDENCE AT A GLANCE

ROUTINE (R)	The default. No time urgency — the bulk of everyday NTS traffic.
WELFARE (W)	Health-and-welfare inquiries and replies about individuals in a disaster area.
PRIORITY (P)	Important messages with a time limit, and official traffic not covered by Emergency.
EMERGENCY	Life-and-safety traffic only. Always written out in full — never abbreviated.

COURSE LESSONS

01	**The ARRL Radiogram: Anatomy & Fields**	Preamble fields, precedence categories, and HX handling.
02	**ARL Numbered Radiograms**	Group One (relief/emergency) and Group Two (routine) messages.
03	**Originating, Relaying & the ICS-213 Conversion**	Field-by-field conversion, worked example.
04	**Reading Other Formats: MARS, SHARES & Military DTG**	Decoding cross-system date-time groups.
05	**Capstone: Getting Reports Onto the Net**	Field reports converted to Radiogram form.

BEFORE YOU START

Prerequisite	COM-02 Net Procedures & Prowords recommended — assumes you can work a net.
Format	Five self-paced online lessons with knowledge checks; certificate unlocks on completion.

DOCTRINAL SOURCES

ARRL FSD-218	**Radiogram Format**	Preamble fields, precedence, HX codes
ARRL FSD-3	**Numbered Radiograms**	ARL Group One / Group Two texts (Lesson 02)
ARRL NTS MPG	**NTS Methods & Practices Guidelines**	Originating, relaying, net handling
MARS / NTS	**ICS-213 to Radiogram Exercise**	Conversion worked example (Lesson 03)
FM 6-99	**Army Report & Message Formats**	Military DTG and report formats (L04–05)